

**REMARKS**

In response to the Examiner's objection to Figure 3, Applicants respectfully submit herewith a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 3, clearly marked by the label, "Prior Art." Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the figure be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, Applicants have amended page 10 of the specification to indicate that figures 2 and 3 represent prior art. In particular, Applicants have added the language, "in the prior art" after each sentence describing the figures.

In response to the Examiner's objection to page 5 of the specification, Applicants have amended the specification to change the word "chars" to "characteristic."

Claims 4-9 have been withdrawn. Claims 2-3 and 22-24 have been canceled. New claim 29 has been added. Therefore, claims 1, 10-14, 15-21, and 25-29 are pending.

On page 13 of the Office Action, claim 24 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled claim 24. The subject matter from claim 24 has been included in independent claims 1, 15, 20, 27, and 29. As these claims now include all subject matter from allowable claim 24, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 1. Claims 16-19 depend from claim 15. Claims 21 and 25-26 depend from claim 20. Claim 28 depends from claim 27. Therefore, these claims are also patentable over the references.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

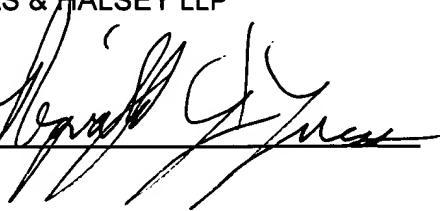
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By:

Date: 5 July 05



Serial No. 09/960,405

Reginald D. Lucas  
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

Serial No. 09/960,405

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 3. Please replace the original sheet including FIG. 3 with the replacement sheet including FIG. 3.